

HOUSE BILL 1137

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By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2010

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Public Accountancy – Educational Requirements for**
3 **Examination and Licensure**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the educational requirements for an applicant for a
5 license to practice certified public accountancy to take the examination to be a
6 certain number of semester hours or their equivalent and the possession of a
7 baccalaureate or higher degree; maintaining the educational requirements for a
8 license to practice certified public accountancy at a certain number of semester
9 hours or their equivalent and the possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree;
10 and generally relating to the educational requirements for examination and
11 licensure as a certified public accountant.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
14 Section 2–303 and 2–305
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

20 2–303.

21 (a) (1) [Prior to July 1, 1999, in addition to the other qualifications for a
22 license set forth in this subtitle,] **IN ORDER TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION**, an
23 applicant shall **HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED 120 SEMESTER HOURS OR**
24 **THEIR EQUIVALENT**, AND hold a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the
25 requirements of this section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) [On or after July 1, 1999,] **IN ORDER TO BECOME LICENSED**, in
2 addition to the other qualifications for a license set forth in this subtitle, an applicant
3 shall have satisfactorily completed 150 semester hours or their equivalent, including
4 the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the requirements of this
5 section.

6 (b) The applicant shall have completed for the degree a curriculum that the
7 Board considers to constitute:

8 (1) a major in accounting; or

9 (2) a substantial equivalent to a major in accounting, of which
10 required credits or courses may be taken at any 2- or 4-year regionally accredited
11 institution of higher education.

12 (c) The degree required under this section shall be awarded by a school,
13 college, university, or other institution that:

14 (1) is a member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of
15 Business;

16 (2) is a member of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and
17 Programs;

18 (3) is accredited by or is a constituent unit of an institution accredited
19 by:

20 (i) the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; or

21 (ii) the equivalent regional accrediting association for other
22 regional areas; or

23 (4) is recognized and approved by the Board.

24 (d) (1) The Board may use the services of any institution that it considers
25 appropriate to determine what constitutes a substantial equivalent to a major in
26 accounting under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

27 (2) If the Board uses an institution to determine curriculum
28 equivalencies, the Board may accept as final the determination of that institution.

29 2-305.

30 (a) An applicant who [otherwise qualifies for a license] **MEETS THE**
31 **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD** is entitled to be
32 examined as provided in this section.

1 (b) The Board shall give examinations to applicants at least twice a year, at
2 the times and places that the Board determines.

3 (c) The Board shall give each qualified applicant notice of the time and place
4 of examination.

5 (d) (1) The Board shall give the examination prepared by the American
6 Institute of Certified Public Accountants or an equivalent examination as determined
7 by the Board.

8 (2) The Board may use the services of the American Institute of
9 Certified Public Accountants to prepare or grade an examination. If the Board uses the
10 services of the Institute, the Board may accept as final the grades that the Institute
11 determines.

12 (3) The Board may use the services of any person whom the Board
13 considers appropriate to proctor an examination.

14 (e) The Board shall adopt regulations that establish the passing score for an
15 examination.

16 (f) (1) The Board shall mail to each applicant notice of the applicant's
17 examination score.

18 (2) Any applicant who requests an appointment within 60 days after
19 the date on which the notice is mailed may review the applicant's answers to the
20 examination.

21 (g) (1) If the Board uses the services of the American Institute of Certified
22 Public Accountants to grade an examination, the Board may send the examination
23 answers to the Institute by electronic transmission, by mail, or by a private delivery
24 service.

25 (2) If the Board sends out examination answers for grading in
26 accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board is not liable for the loss or
27 destruction of any of the examination answers while the answers are out of the
28 possession of the Board.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2010.